

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/673,600

Examiner

Natalia Figueroa

Applicant(s)

PRICE ET AL.

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment (08 August 2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

RE claim 1, the prior art of record, and in particular Krum et al (USPN 6,351,344) fails to teach or suggest a device comprising an enclosure having a spindle motor mounted thereto, a perimeter edge, and an axial thickness; and the enclosure also having a disk region located over at least a portion of the storage area of the magnetic disk, the disk region having an axial thickness that is less than the axial thickness of the enclosure to define a working magnetic gap for erasing the magnetic disk while the magnetic disk is inside the enclosure, and the disk region extends radially from said at least a portion of the storage area to the perimeter edge of the enclosure.

RE claim 9, the prior art of record, and in particular Krum et al (USPN 6,351,344) fails to teach or suggest a system comprising an enclosure having an axial thickness and a disk region located over a radial portion of the magnetic disk, the disk region having an axial thickness that is less than the axial thickness of the enclosure, and the disk region providing a working magnetic gap for the disk erase apparatus so that the magnetic disk can be erased inside the hard disk drive assembly; and wherein the hard disk drive assembly is inserted into a magnetic gap of the disk erase apparatus, and the magnetic gap defines an axial dimension that is greater than the axial thickness of the disk region and less than the axial thickness of the enclosure.

RE claim 18, the prior art of record, and in particular Krum et al (USPN 6,351,344) fails to teach or suggest a system comprising an enclosure having an axial

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thickness and a disk region located over a radial portion of the magnetic disk, the disk region having an axial thickness that is less than the axial thickness of the enclosure, and the disk region extends radially from the radial portion of the magnetic disk to the perimeter edge of the enclosure, and the disk region providing a working magnetic gap for the disk erase apparatus so that the magnetic disk can be erased inside the hard disk drive assembly; wherein the hard disk drive assembly is inserted into a magnetic gap of the disk erase apparatus, and the magnetic gap defines an axial dimension that is greater than the axial thickness of the disk region and less than the axial thickness of the enclosure; and wherein the working magnetic gap reduces stray magnetic fields to prevent motor rotor demagnetization damage, and increase a gradient of magnetic flux density as the hard disk drive is inserted into the disk erase apparatus.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
NFM

  
DAVID HUDSPETH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600